

drug data in a readily retrievable manner, and do not routinely maintain comprehensive charts documenting residents' clinical or physical status. Thus, we believed that identifying general characteristics associated with inappropriate drug use might prove useful in future efforts to target residents for whom drug-utilization review may be especially warranted. Residents with a larger number of regularly scheduled prescriptions were more likely than others in the sample to receive at least one inappropriate drug. Thus, the number of prescriptions may serve as a simple indicator for targeting residents at higher risk of inappropriate drug use. Indeed, in other arenas, having five or more prescriptions has been used as one indicator of the need for the services of a consultant pharmacist.

The Health Care Financing Administration recently published a final rule on regulation for drug-utilization review programs for Medicaid-covered prescription drugs. These regulations—which were not targeted specifically for residential care facilities—require that state Medicaid agencies have pharmacist counseling programs to ensure that prescriptions are medically necessary, appropriate, and unlikely to produce adverse side effects. We suggest that state board and care regulations be systematically reviewed with an eye toward incorporating and stimulating the development of pharmacy counseling and drug-utilization review programs that are specific to conditions faced in these facilities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY RIGHT TO PROTECT CHILDREN RESOLUTION

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Community Right to Protect Children Resolution, designed to reaffirm the right of State and local governments to pass laws intended to preserve and protect the safety of children.

In response to a series of gun related incidents at county recreation and teen centers, Fairfax County, VA, officials passed legislation, written to apply only in their county, that would have prohibited guns, knives, and other weapons from community recreation and teen centers. This common sense measure aimed at curbing crime in centers designated as safe havens for children to congregate, set the special interests groups in motion. Unable to discriminate between measures designed to protect children and those aimed at restricting gun rights of law abiding citizens, the myopic self interest powers vigorously protested, ultimately convincing Governor Allen to veto the bill. Governor Allen's veto not only struck down a good law, but also severely limited the ability of communities to fight crime and provide weapon free schools and recreation centers on a local level.

I am here today because I believe that the ability of local governments to pass effective laws that strengthen public safety should neither be constrained nor denied. I am, therefore, introducing this important legislation which expresses the sense of Congress that State and local governments should be encouraged and have the right to respond to the needs of their communities by enacting laws

and ordinances designed to preserve and protect the well-being of young people, including those that seek to ban the possession of firearms and other weapons in community facilities. The Community Right to Protect Children Resolution seeks to reverse the trend of putting children and public safety concerns second to special interest groups. The Virginia case illustrates the tragic consequences of what happens when the interests of children rank second to those of specialized interests with powerful political connections.

I think that Members on both sides of the aisle will agree with me that when it comes to addressing the unique public safety concerns of our districts, one size does not fit all. Local governments require flexibility—not legal straightjackets that bar their actions to protect children. This resolution recognizes that different problems require different solutions, that what works in rural areas may not be enough for urban areas where crimes committed with guns are more likely to occur. Local and State governments are fighting the crime problem on many fronts, including innovative policing and social programs, but their hands are tied when it comes to enacting any restrictions on guns. Reasonable gun and weapon restrictions, such as the measure passed by Fairfax County, VA, are an essential ingredient in our effort to reduce crime, particularly among juveniles. To suggest otherwise, ignores the incidence and pervasiveness of the problem, notably that nearly 90 percent of homicide victims 15 to 19 years of age were killed with a firearm. Juveniles are both perpetrators and victims of crime committed with firearms. Arrest rates are consistently and substantially higher for young people than for all other age groups. Between 1987 and 1994, annual rates of firearm homicide for youth aged 15 to 19 years of age increased 155 percent, totaling 8,116 deaths in 1994. This amounts to an average of 22 youth homicide victims per day in the United States, earning the United States the dubious distinction of leading the industrialized world in the number and rate of gun-related child homicides.

Strategies that limit the ability of local governments to respond to community needs, ensure that the war on crime will not be fought, much less won. We should be empowering rather than disabling and limiting the ability of local governments to fight crime. We need to ensure that communities have in their arsenal every tool available to curb the growth and incidence of juvenile crime. Federal and State law, and policy must not stand in the way of State and local governments' efforts to protect its citizens. Let us encourage them to accomplish what the Federal Government has limited ability to do—enact reasonable controls over firearms and other weapons that threaten public safety and the well-being of our children in their schools, recreation centers, or other areas in their communities.

WHAT MY FLAG MEANS TO ME

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the following poem inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This poem entitled "What My Flag Means To Me" was written by William Watkins, a fifth grader at Alto Park Elementary School in Rome, GA.

WHAT MY FLAG MEANS TO ME

Have you ever stopped to think about our flag, about what it means, and how it came to be? Have you ever thought about it's history and what the glorious stripes and stars stand for? To me, the flag stands for freedom and liberty. It stands for pride and peace. It stands for wars that we fought, not only for ourselves, but for other countries and for things we just didn't think were right. Thankfully, my peers and I haven't been through anything like that, through all of that hatred and through all of that fear.

To me, the flag also stands for being our own country. We have our own government and are not ruled by anyone. It means that no matter what color your skin is, whether it is black, white, or red, everyone is treated equally. It means that no one can tell us what church to go to, where to live, how to live, where to go to school, or anything like that. We are our own country.

The beautiful red, white, and blue stars and stripes stand for fifty glorious and magnificent states; each with fitting nicknames like 'The Sunshine State' and 'The Peach State' (which are, by the way, Florida and Georgia). The stripes stand for the thirteen original thriving colonies. When I look at the Flag, I think of everyone who takes a part in making this big beautiful country work. I think about the people who risked their lives to come from Spain, France, Germany, England, and other countries to make this great country.

I hope our country is always safe, self-governmental, and beautiful for today, tomorrow, and on into the future. I also hope that everyone will respect our land forever.

TRIBUTE TO CLOVIS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Clovis Unified School District [CUSD]. In a joint powers agreement, CUSD and Fresno Unified School District [FUSD] will open a Center for Advanced Research and Technology [CART] in Clovis, CA. An extended branch of the educational system in Clovis, CART will allow students in the community to adequately prepare for the technological challenges of the future.

Scheduled to open in the fall of 1999, CART pilot programs have been slated to begin in the fall of 1997. CART was made possible by a combination of grants and a partnership between local businesses and the educational departments of the community.

As a center striving to meet the employment needs of the community by adequately preparing students to take advantage of post-secondary options, the course work presented at the center will be responsive to the changes in American industry. CART will offer courses that require sophisticated laboratory environments and interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates higher order mathematics, sciences, and technology education. This course work will focus on the intellectual processes of problem solving, analyzing, team building resource allocation, and self-assessment

through a cognitive apprenticeship instructional model. The skills taught at CART will be invaluable in both interpersonal and technological growth throughout the students' lives.

Striving to educate all segments of the community, high school students and adults will reap the benefits of CART. High school students will spend half of their day at the center receiving laboratory instruction. The State Center Community College District will offer postsecondary classes for students. Additionally, the Central California Business Incubator Program will also be located at the center.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to welcome this program to my congressional district. I look forward to monitoring the progress that CART makes as it works closely with members of the local community. I ask my colleagues to join me both in supporting the Center for Advanced Research and Technology, and extending best wishes for its future success.

ADOPTION PROMOTION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 867) to promote the adoption of children in foster care:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1997. I commend my colleague, Congressman CAMP, for bringing the important issue of adoption to the floor.

H.R. 867 would require officials to actively pursue adoptions for children who have languished in foster care for 18 months or more. In addition, this legislation would continue to require States to make "reasonable efforts" to keep families together unless returning a child to his or her family would involve "aggravated circumstances." These circumstances would include cases of chronic abuse, torture, or abandonment.

At the end of 1994, there were an estimated 462,000 children in family foster care, kinship care, or residential care—up 65 percent from only a decade ago. According to the Child Welfare League of America, half of all children who await adoption are minority children; these children typically wait longer for adoptive homes. In Cuyahoga County, of the over 3,000 children in the foster care system, nearly 65 percent are African-American. By actively pursuing adoptions for children who have remained in foster care for more than 18 months, H.R. 867 shares my belief that all children, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, and physical and emotional health are entitled to a family.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 867 would also require the Department of Health and Human Services to convene an advisory panel to report to Congress on the issue of kinship care. Currently, there are more than 3 million grandparents raising their grandchildren. According to census figures, in 1990, three times as many grandparents were raising their grandchildren than in 1980—just 10 years prior. In addition, many other relatives including aunts, uncles, and older siblings are left to care for

children who are not able or not willing to raise their children. This is an important step in helping to address the rapidly growing issue of kinship care.

Mr. Chairman, the promotion of adoption is one of the most important things we can do to strengthen American families. Adoption enables children, whose parents cannot or will not raise them, to become part of a permanent family. Furthermore, it serves as a second chance for the thousands of children who have been removed from their families because of abuse or neglect.

H.R. 867 represents a positive approach in finding homes for our Nation's needy children. I support this effort to facilitate the adoption of children, and to decrease the time that many of our children languish in the foster care system. Mr. Chairman, I join with my colleagues in support of this legislation.

NATIONAL LAW DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 1, 1997, members of the legal profession throughout the lower Hudson Valley region will join with their colleagues in the national observance of Law Day. Law Day serves as an opportunity for all Americans to celebrate our liberties and to reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of justice and equality under the law.

Law Day will be celebrated in my district by the Orange County Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan Counties in a ceremony at the Orange County Government Center. This year's theme is "Celebrate Your Freedom."

Our Republic was founded on several key principles, many based on the English common law. Yet our Founding Fathers went further than their predecessors in England, and established a written Constitution with a codified Bill of Rights. They also founded a legal system which places the burden of proof on the accuser, not the accused, and in which everyone is entitled to having their day in court.

Moreover, they also established an independent judiciary, a first for the world at that time, which has safeguarded the rights and freedoms of our citizens for over 200 years.

Accordingly, liberty and equality under the law is one of the guiding principles of our Republic. Without any legal system, freedom quickly dissolves into anarchy. Yet, without liberty, the rule of law devolves into mere authoritarianism.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the legal profession from the 20th Congressional District of New York in celebrating Law Day. This year's celebration reaffirms the fact that the principles upon which our country was founded upon are alive and well.

TRIBUTE TO BERTRAM GROSS

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory, as well as to celebrate the life of

Bertram Gross, who I designated a national treasure in 1995 on behalf of my constituents, for his lifetime of work and dedication to achieve full employment for the people of this Nation, for his writings, and for his teaching.

Among Bertram Gross' many achievements, I have special reason to acknowledge his work as the primary author of the first full employment act introduced in 1945, and passed in 1946, and the second full employment act introduced in 1976 and passed in 1978 by the U.S. Congress. My district and I are particularly indebted to him for his work as the primary author of the third bill, A Living Wage, Jobs for All Act, which was first introduced in 1993, in the 103d Congress, and has been reintroduced in the 104th, as well as in this, the 105th Congress.

Bert was born in 1913 and, when he became a young man in the 1930's in spite of hard-working, supportive parents, and his own capabilities could not find work, like one-half of the American labor force at that time. His personal experience, his knowledge of the misery of so many other Americans provided his earliest social education. These lessons in the fear generated by the destructiveness of joblessness was the marrow, the foundation of his life work.

Like Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Thomas Paine, and William Jefferson, Bert believed profoundly in the dignity of each human being. He fought against the momentum that only those who inherited wealth, or possessed large blocks of capital should have access to the wealth of our society and Nation. Fundamental to this belief was that we all must have the right to work at adequate wages to support ourselves and our children. Bert Gross believed that one of our national legacies was our sense of our basic right to a life of dignity and, that this basic right incorporated a right to work, to adequate housing, food, health care, and education. A legacy that Americans had earned and achieved through the Depression of the thirties and full employment in the forties and that we now appear to have forgotten and lost.

Bert Gross designed A Living Wage, Jobs for All Act, not only as a full employment bill; because the act incorporates basic elements of our economic life and provides specific remedies for many of these ills, this bill can be truly considered a party platform. A platform that is diametrically opposed to the destructiveness of the recent Contract With America.

I designated Bert a national treasure because of the passion that he brought to his life work to have the Nation consider full employment as a fundamental principle. He wrote, talked, cajoled, led, persuaded, and taught all who came into contact with him, with humanity, with humor, with great intelligence and most of the time, with great patience and appreciation for the possession of similar qualities in his students and audience.

In the last 3 years, Bert worked on a daily basis with members of my staff and with my constituents promoting A Living Wage, Jobs for All Act; to hone the bill so that it could be read as prose for a wider readership; to develop strategies to gain support for the ideas reflected in the bill, and to work toward our rediscovery of our lost heritage.

Bertram Gross, being wise, knew he was mortal. For the many of us who benefitted from his work, his wisdom, and his passionate commitment, we can best remember him by